

Specie IV (claims 1 and 10-12): a method of fabricating a probe in which the etching of the silicon substrate recited in claim 1 is carried out using an anisotropic etching process.

Accordingly, the Examiner requests election of a single disclosed species for initial examination on the merits. The Examiner argues that no claim is generic.

Traversal of Election of Species Requirement

While not necessarily agreeing with the Examiner's assertion that the invention includes patentably distinct species, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's assertion that none of the present claims is generic. Rather, claim 1 is generic to all of the claims since it reads on all of the claims: the method in each of the four species delineated by the Examiner is the method of claim 1 with additional limitations. In other words, since all of the claims depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, all of the claims contain all of the limitations of claim 1. In fact, claim 1 has been included by the Examiner in each of the four Species. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that claim 1 be designated as generic, so that upon allowance, all of the claims would be rejoined in the application.

Election of Species

Applicants provisionally elect the claims of Specie I, claims 1-5, for initial examination. In view of this election, prompt consideration and examination of this application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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